

JOHN KEELL "JACK" KNIGHTS (K43-47)

He was born on 31 July 1929 and after leaving the College went to Downing College Cambridge, where he won a half blue for sailing in 1952. He later captained the Cambridge sailing team.

He was 3 times the British Finn champion and North American Finn Champion. He had a variety of other major successes in yachts both big and small. He won several dinghy national championships and an Enterprise Dinghy cross channel race, as well as the "Round the Island" race at Cowes. In August 1955 he won both the trials in the Finn Class Olympic sailing at Cowes and the following year finished runner up in the final Olympic Trials at Weymouth. He was subsequently travelling reserve for the Great Britain Olympic Sailing Team for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. He later he was Rear Commodore and Captain of the Cambridge University Cruising Club.

He was a respected writer about sailing in periodicals and newspapers in Britain and overseas, the author of a number of yachting books and a well-known designer. These included being the yachting writer for the Daily Express. He was an adviser on boats to the Council of Industrial Design and the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

He had been closely associated with the London International Boat Show since its inception, for 27 years, until his death on 26 January 1981 aged only 51.

For the 8 years prior to his death he had been European Editor for Sail Magazine. He was also to have joined Ted Turner's crew aboard Tenacious for the Southern Ocean Racing Conference starting in Florida the month after his death.

A Jack Knights Memorial Race is held at Cowes every year.